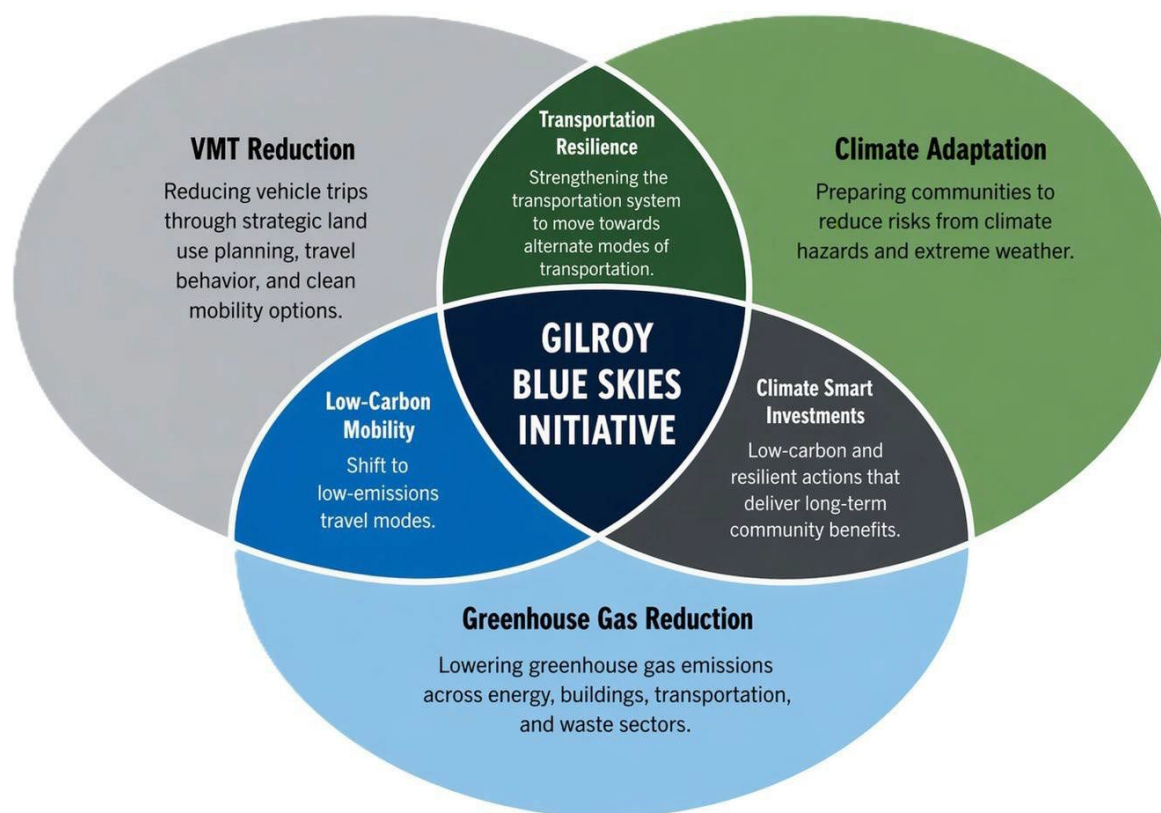


Gilroy Blue Skies Initiative

Community Needs Assessment Survey

Welcome! The City of Gilroy is developing the Blue Skies Initiative, a community-driven long term planning effort with the goals of; **1) Reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG); 2) Reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT); and 3) Adapting to climate impacts.** The first activity involves the City's creation of a roadmap to reduce GHG emissions¹. In Gilroy, most GHG emissions come from vehicles, followed by energy use, then landfill waste. This survey asks about transportation, energy use and waste management to help us better understand the challenges our community faces.



For questions regarding this survey or if you would like to be notified of Blue Skies project activity, please contact the Blue Skies Initiative team at: gilroyblueskies@cityofgilroy.org.

¹ GHG emissions occur in the atmosphere through use of electricity, heating and cooling systems, industrial processes and waste management. The increase in GHG acts as a thermal blanket over the Earth.

This Survey

Responses to this survey will remain confidential, anonymous, and will be for the purpose of this project. This survey will take about 15 minutes to complete.

Thank you in advance for participating in this survey. As a thank you from the Blue Skies Initiative team, we are offering a \$50 gift card every two weeks while the survey is open. Simply enter your email address at the end of the survey for a chance to win.

Community Resilience and Adaptation

The following section is seeking to prioritize the various climate hazards which can result in negative impacts to the community. Gilroy's primary climate hazards are extreme heat, drought/water supply impacts, wildfire/smoke impacts and flooding.

- 1. What climate hazards are you most concerned about? (Rank in order of importance with 1 being most important and 4 being least important)**
 - ☐ Extreme heat
 - ☐ Drought
 - ☐ Wildfire and smoke
 - ☐ Flooding

- 2. To what extent do you think climate hazards have impacted jobs and economic growth in Gilroy?**
 - a. Severe negative impact
 - b. Moderate negative impact
 - c. Minor negative impact
 - d. No impact
 - e. Positive impact

Extreme Heat

Extreme heat is defined as more than four consecutive days of 96.8 degrees².

- 3. How does extreme heat affect you or your household? (Circle all that apply)**
 - a. My bills are higher
 - b. I am uncomfortable in my home due to heat
 - c. I avoid exercising or recreating outside
 - d. I get dehydration or have other heat related impacts
 - e. I spend less time outdoors
 - f. No impact
 - g. Other: _____

² Cal-Adapt defines an extreme heat day as a day when the daily maximum temperature exceeds the 98th historical percentile of daily maximum temperatures based on observed data from 1961–1990 between April and October. 98 percent of all recorded temperatures between April and October from 1961 to 1990 were below 96.8°F.

4. What resources would make it easier for you or your household to cope with extreme heat? (Circle up to five)

- a. Financial help with energy bills
- b. Financial assistance for air conditioner(s) or fans at home
- c. Financial help to make home energy efficiency and weatherization (better insulation, triple-pane windows, sealing windows/doors)
- d. More shade trees, parks, or green spaces in my neighborhood
- e. More public cooling centers nearby
- f. Transportation to cooler spaces/cooling centers
- g. Community programs offering education, alerts, and heat safety strategies
- h. Other: _____

Wildfire and Smoke Impacts

Gilroy is surrounded by two mountain ranges that are high fire risks.

5. How have you or your family been impacted by wildfires and wildfire smoke? (Circle all that apply)

- a. Limited outdoor activities
- b. I've avoided exercising or recreating outside
- c. Experienced health symptoms such as asthma or trouble breathing
- d. Missed work or school
- e. My insurance rates have increased
- f. Lost our home/residence
- g. Other: _____

6. What resources would help you or your household during wildfires or when there is wildfire smoke?

- a. Emergency warnings, alerts, and evacuation information
- b. Financial assistance with purchasing air filters and clean air devices at home
- c. Financial assistance to weatherize my home (seal doors and windows)
- d. Clean air centers in my community
- e. Other: _____

7. What resources would help you or your household prepare for wildfires or wildfire smoke events?

- a. Educational workshops on wildfire and wildfire smoke
- b. Community programs on smoke, carbon and fire extinguisher use
- c. Financial assistance with weed abatement and landscaping
- d. Home inspection program for fire preparedness
- e. More education on fireworks, regulations and enforcement
- f. Other: _____

Flooding (Extreme Precipitation)

The city is expected to experience four extreme precipitation events per year in both the near-term and mid-term³. The city may also experience an increase in the frequency and intensity of rain events leading to flood events, particularly given the presence of floodplains within the city.

- 8. If you live or work in Gilroy, have you experienced a flood which directly impacted your residence, job site, or travel?**
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't live or work in Gilroy

- 9. How has flooding affected you or your household? (Circle all that apply)**
 - a. Limited outdoor activities
 - b. I avoided exercising or recreating outside
 - c. Missed work or school
 - d. My home or job site was damaged
 - e. I've never experienced a flood that affected myself or my household

- 10. In the event of a storm or flood event, what resources would help you or your household? (Circle all that apply)**
 - a. Emergency shelters or evacuation services
 - b. Alerts and early warnings about storms and floods
 - c. Transportation to safe place
 - d. Financial assistance to help with damages or supplies such as sandbags or flashlights
 - e. Community programs to learn about emergency preparedness
 - f. Other: _____

- 11. If you were impacted by a storm or flood event, what resources would be helpful?**
 - a. Financial aid for repairs and recovery
 - b. Flood prevention improvements in my neighborhood (better drainage, levees)
 - c. Home improvements (roof repairs, waterproofing)
 - d. Community programs offering storm preparedness tips
 - e. Other: _____

³ According to Cal-Adapt (tool developed by Berkeley Geospatial Innovation), the city has historically experienced an average of three extreme precipitation events per year from 1961-1990. Extreme precipitation events are defined as events where 2-day rainfall totals are above an extreme threshold (i.e., days having precipitation at or exceeding the 95th percentile). For the city as a whole, this threshold is approximately 1.13 inches over a 2-day period.

Drought and Water Supply

The city uses wells for 100% of its potable “drinking” water supply. Run-off and precipitation help to restore the local aquifer which supplies and re-charges these water wells. Droughts are prolonged periods with low rainfall and higher temperatures.

12. How have droughts affected you or your household?

- a. Water restrictions
- b. Landscaping issues
- c. Increased cost
- d. Less water in local streams
- e. Increase in fire hazard due to drier landscape
- f. Other: _____

13. What resources would help you prepare for a drought?

- a. Financial incentives to save water
- b. Low flow faucets or fixtures
- c. Help with landscaping changes that use less water
- d. Community programs to learn about water conservation
- e. Other: _____

Household, Efficiency, Lifestyle

In this next section, we want to learn about your household energy usage and any challenges you face when switching to energy-efficient appliances or making home improvements.

14. What type of stove does your household currently use for cooking?

- a. Electric
- b. Gas
- c. Induction
- d. Wood stove
- e. I don't know
- f. Other

15. What type of space heating system does your household use?

- a. Boiler
- b. Electric resistance
- c. Furnace
- d. Heat pump
- e. Radiant heating
- f. Wood or pellet heating
- g. I don't know

16. What type of water heating system does your household use?

- a. Conventional natural gas storage water heater
- b. Tankless or demand-type water heater
- c. Heat pump water heater
- d. Solar water heater
- e. Tankless coil and indirect water heater
- f. I don't know

17. What prevents your household from using electric or induction stoves? (Circle all that apply)

- a. High cost to purchase and install
- b. Unfamiliar or unsure about electric or induction stoves
- c. My landlord makes decisions about appliances
- d. My household already uses an electric or induction stove
- e. Prefer to use a gas stove
- f. Other

18. What barriers prevent your household from switching to energy efficient appliances for space or water heating? (Circle all that apply)

- a. Upfront costs are too high and/or uncertainty about energy cost savings
- b. My home's electrical system needs upgrades
- c. Not enough information about electric options
- d. My landlord makes decisions about systems
- e. Already use electric systems
- f. My current space and water heating systems are adequate
- g. Other

19. What would make your household more likely to switch to electric systems for heating, water heating, and stove? (Circle all that apply)

- a. Larger rebates, financial assistance, low-interest financing or payment plans
- b. Free home energy assessments
- c. Help with electrical panel upgrades
- d. Backup power solutions for outages
- e. More information about cost savings and health benefits
- f. My household already uses electric systems
- g. Other: _____

Waste Management

There is no landfill in Gilroy. All community-generated solid waste that is not either composted or recycled is sent to landfills outside of the city. This section focuses on how your household handles general household waste.

20. How often does your household reuse or donate items such as clothes, furniture, electronics, or household goods instead of throwing them away?

- a. Always or almost always
- b. Sometimes
- c. Rarely
- d. Never

21. How often does your household use the green bin for food scraps and yard waste?

- a. Daily
- b. Weekly
- c. Rarely
- d. Never

22. If you do not compost scraps and yard waste, why? (Circle all that apply)

- a. Not sure how to compost
- b. Compost attracts pests or smells bad
- c. It's inconvenient or takes too much effort
- d. Not enough kitchen space for a collection container
- e. My household doesn't generate much food waste
- f. Green bin service is not available at my address
- g. My household already composts at home
- h. I compost scraps and yard waste

23. What would make it easier for your household to reduce food waste and recycle? (Circle all that apply)

- a. Clearer instructions about what goes in each bin
- b. Smaller kitchen containers for collecting food scraps
- c. More frequent green bin pickup
- d. Education about repair services or fix-it workshops
- e. Compost giveaway programs (free compost made from collected materials)
- f. Community swap events for reusable items
- g. Other

Transportation

This section will assist in understanding current travel patterns. Responses will help us improve transportation options, including transit, biking, and other modes.

24. Please rate the primary way you traveled last week (Pick top three. 1 – Most traveled; 2 – Sometimes traveled; 3 – Least traveled):

- ☐ Drive alone
- ☐ Carpool
- ☐ Vanpool

- ☐ Rideshare (i.e Uber, Lyft) ☐
- ☐ Bus (VTA/Caltrain/Other) ☐
- ☐ Rail
- ☐ Bike
- ☐ Walk
- ☐ Shuttle
- ☐ Other

25. Do you commute for work/school from Gilroy to another city during the week?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't live or work in Gilroy

26. If you commute for work/school to another city, how far do you travel each way?

- a. Less than 10 miles
- b. Between 11 to 30 miles
- c. Between 30 to 50 miles
- d. More than 50 miles

27. If you telework or work remotely. How many days a week do you work remotely? _____

28. If you were offered the same job in Gilroy with a 10% pay cut, would you choose to work in Gilroy?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not employed right now.

29. Would you use a park and ride if it was available to get to work?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not employed right now.

30. If bus service or mass transit could get you to your work in 30 minutes, would you consider using a bus service or mass transit?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not employed right now.

31. Do you use bus service or mass transit to anywhere other than Gilroy?

- a. Yes
- b. No

32. Is there a scenario that you would use busing or mass transit?_____

33. Do you use an e-bike?

- a. Yes
- b. No

34. If yes, what type of e-bike do you use?

- a. Class 1 (motor assists as pedaled)
- b. Class 2 (pedal assist with throttle)
- c. Class 3 (pedal assist with optional throttle, higher top speed of 28mph)

Demographics

This last section will focus on demographics and household information.

35. In which area of Gilroy do you reside?

- a. Eastern area (by the Gilroy Outlets)
- b. Western area (near Hecker Pass/Eagle Ridge)
- c. Southern area (near Gavilan College)
- d. Northern area (by Masten Avenue)
- e. Downtown Gilroy
- f. I don't reside in Gilroy

36. What is your age?

- a. Under 18
- b. 18-24
- c. 25-34
- d. 35-44
- e. 45-54
- f. 55-64
- g. 65 and older
- h. Prefer not to say

37. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- a. Some high school, no diploma
- b. High school graduate (or equivalent, e.g. GED)
- c. Some college credit, no degree
- d. Trade/technical/vocational training
- e. Associate degree (e.g., AA, AS)
- f. Bachelor's degree (e.g., BA, BS)
- g. Master's degree (e.g., MA, MS, MEng)
- h. Professional degree (e.g., MD, DDS, JD)
- i. Doctorate degree (e.g., PhD, EdD)
- j. Prefer not to say

38. What is your annual household income?

- a. Under \$50,000
- b. \$50,000 - \$75,000
- c. \$75,001 - \$100,000
- d. \$100,001 - \$150,000
- e. \$150,001 - \$200,000
- f. Over \$200,000
- g. Prefer not to say

39. What is your gender?

- a. Female
- b. Male
- c. Transgender
- d. Non-binary
- e. Prefer not to say

40. Which race or ethnicity best describes you?

- a. American Indian or Alaska Native
- b. Asian
- c. Black or African American
- d. Hispanic or Latino
- e. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- f. White
- g. Other
- h. Prefer not to say

Thank you for your time! You are an important part of this plan.

As a thank you from the Blue Skies Initiative team, we are offering a **\$50 gift card** to three winners.

Want to enter?

Simply provide your email address below for a chance to win!

Email: _____